

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN EDITOR

FRIDAY DECEMBER 29, 1916.

PROPOSALS FOR CHINESE LABOR IMMIGRATION.

Representing the United Chinese Society of Honolulu, two residents of this city, one a Chinese-American and the other an American businessman, have gone to Washington to urge legislation that would allow the importation of 25,000 or 30,000 Chinese laborers into Hawaii. The chief argument is that the labor is needed for the rice industry in this territory.

The plans are backed by Chinese throughout Hawaii, and there is no question that the Chinese mercantile and agricultural interests would benefit by such a wholesale importation of the laboring element. There is also no question that the sugar planters would benefit, for a large proportion of the laborers brought here would gravitate speedily to the cane-fields, attracted by high wages and bonuses and by the nature of the employment. Sugar plantation work is more attractive to the laborer than work in the rice-fields.

But the proposed importation of these laborers brings up the far more important questions of assimilation and Americanization. Does Hawaii, now struggling with the truly Herculean task of trying to mould scores of thousands of aliens and their offspring of alien blood into the material of an American community, wish to receive a new vast, unleavened mass of Orientalism? Shall we add to the problems and the labors already taxing our public schools, churches, educational philanthropies? Shall we increase the difficulty of maintaining and developing American civic institutions?

These and other questions inevitably arise. The steady importation of Filipino labor, the large annual immigration of Japanese picture brides, each year bring to Hawaii thousands of aliens to add to the existing problems of assimilation. Opportunities for the boys and girls of island birth to enter the trades are comparatively few; competition in the ranks of unskilled labor yearly grows keener; the problem of unemployment is present. Importation of 25,000 Chinese coolies would add materially to the employment problem. There is nothing whatever to show that they would stay in the rice-fields, or that any legislation or agreement could be devised that would make them stay.

Outside of the local problems of assimilation presented by this proposal, there is the very practical objection which mainland legislators will raise against any modification of the Chinese exclusion law. There is also the probability that Japan would not without protest see Chinese male laborers allowed to enter a part of the United States when under the "gentlemen's agreement," her own male laborers are barred. There is the objection quite as practical of the impossibility of passing legislation in Congress which would compel the Chinese to stay in Hawaii instead of going to the mainland.

Indeed, these objections, which might be called national reasons, are so obvious that it seems unnecessary to worry yet over the local difficulties of assimilating the 25,000 should they be admitted.

GERMANY'S GRAVE FOOD SHORTAGE.

The confident utterances of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg and other German officials on the ample food supply in the kingdom is not borne out by other German testimony. The Tagliche Rundschau, one of the leading German papers, about the middle of December printed an article which an Amsterdam despatch refers to as "desperate, almost threatening." It was under the title, "What Shall We Eat," said in part:

"The food scarcity has reached a crisis, as for weeks past in one part of the city or another the supply of bread has been failing constantly. Fish has now become one of the most important foods, but no fresh fish is available, and the price of smoked fish is now six times the normal."

"The more the announcements of arrangements with neutrals for food supplies, and the more numerous become official regulations, the more shops are closing. Only apples are obtainable in reasonable quantities, but small cauliflower are sometimes on sale."

It is stated that the only food likely to last till spring is preserved vegetables, but when maximum prices for these were abolished, great stocks disappeared.

The Tagliche Rundschau urges the seizure of all Berlin stocks of food and the sale to the people direct. The feeling among the people is that the government is behind these difficulties in order to make the people agree more readily to a communal feeding system. Such difficulties, adds the Rundschau, would be settled in America in one day, where the judges and also lynch law have the might to set matters right.

Instead of lynch law we have war legislation which ought to be enforced rigorously."

THE INDETERMINATE SENTENCE.

In New York recently the indeterminate sentence law, which Circuit Judge Ashford questions here, was upheld by the state supreme court. According to press comment, indeterminate sentences recently were declared unconstitutional by Judge Delehanty of general sessions in the case of a woman convicted two or more times.

Justice Pendleton's decision had for its occasion his refusal to sustain a writ of habeas corpus obtained for J. Bourke, a penitentiary prisoner. In remanding Bourke, Justice Pendleton said:

"Relator (Bourke) contends that the act is un-

constitutional, because it delegates judicial functions to an administrative body. The power to define crimes and fix their punishment has been committed by the constitution, within limitations, to the legislature. Statutes of this character have been uniformly held not to be violative of the fundamental law."

THE NEEDLESS "EXTRA HOURS."

The "extra hours" privileges granted by the liquor license commissioners to local cafes have always been a source of trouble and dissension. There was never any need for these special privileges, and the Advertiser characterizes them correctly this morning as "extra hours for boozing." The criticism very generally heard against allowing Heinie's to sell liquor until 2 o'clock Sunday morning is fair criticism, for there is a steadily widening circle of objection to these special-privilege cases.

Temperance and prohibition sentiment is growing with remarkable rapidity, in Hawaii and on the mainland. The trend is toward more restriction on booze-selling instead of more laxity. It is an excellent suggestion that the commission abolish the "extra hours" system, and it is in line with public sentiment.

SUGAR-BEET GROWERS PLAN HUGE CROPS

Great activity in the sugar-beet industry of the mainland is foreshadowed by the recent record-breaking imports of sugar-beet seeds. Figures made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, indicate that for the 9 months ended September 30, 1916, the imports of seed reached a total of 18 1/2 million pounds, which is a million pounds more than were imported during the complete calendar years 1913 and 1914 and nearly double those for the full year 1912.

Before the war Germany was the chief source of sugar-beet seeds, but the trade is now in the hands of the Russians. In the fiscal year 1914 Germany supplied nearly 9 million pounds out of a total of 10 1/4 million pounds, the remainder coming chiefly from Austria-Hungary, Russia and Holland. In the fiscal year 1916 Russia supplied 5,881,946 pounds out of a total of 9,042,490 pounds. Imports of beet seed into the United States for the calendar years 1911 to 1916 were as follows:

Years	Pounds
1911	11,025,531
1912	9,854,894
1913	17,644,721
1914	17,557,062
1915	4,029,022
1916 (9 months)	18,474,995

It is an interesting fact that exports of refined sugar in the first 9 months of 1916 totaled 1,388,650,984 pounds, or nearly 50 per cent more than during the whole calendar year 1915, 3 1/2 times more than in 1914, and 26 times more than in 1913.

Says a London despatch: "Some of the most influential journals of the kingdom insist that the other members of the Entente follow the example of Russia and tell the world for what they are continuing the war and upon what terms they will end it. This course, already taken at Petrograd, is precisely what President Wilson suggested. Those who so fiercely criticized the president should take notice that the British papers plainly foresee a diplomatic blunder if Germany is allowed to 'get away with' her peace proposals unchallenged."

A woman, taken to the police station; was not dead drunk, but dead. She was put in a cell and by chance the fact that she was dead was discovered. Comment on this incident seems to be entirely needless.

Perhaps, while talking about peace negotiations, Germany will stop the deportation of Belgian civilians. That would be an evidence of humanitarianism which might help along the end of the conflict.

Among those who are naturally agin the Country Club in this Puunui dispute are the good folk who think that chess is the king of indoor sports and class crokinole as violent exercise.

King Ferdinand of Rumania now joins the melancholy crew of kings without a country, his company including Nicholas of Serbia and Albert of Belgium.

We gather from the irritated tone of the British press that it isn't fair to propose peace just after the Teutons have won the Rumanian victory.

But think how much bigger howl would go up from the Country Club if instead of the sixteenth hole imperilled it was the nineteenth!

"President Adopts Absolute Silence Policy on Peace," says a headline. Not much of the "pitiless publicity" about that.

Speaking of signs, forecasts and warnings, Brewery stock isn't in as much demand as it used to be.

The Forbes-Lord Ananias Club begins to lose its raison d'etre—also its casus belli.

Germany appears to have started a diplomatic drive.

WHEAT IS CHEAP AT \$3 A BUSHEL

"If wheat goes to \$3 a bushel it will still be the cheapest thing in food stuffs one can buy."

This is a statement made to the Star-Bulletin today by H. L. Wing, a wealthy grain speculator of Chicago, who is visiting in Honolulu in company with his sister, Miss Alice E. Wing. Both are at the Moana Hotel. Wing is a member of the Chicago Board of Trade and knows considerable about the wheat conditions in the United States. He says that there is no limit to which the price of the necessary product may go if the war continues.

"The Australian crop is tied up for lack of bottoms, the Russian yield is very uncertain," he says, "so there is nothing left but the United States. She is feeding the world, at least making an effort to."

The grain man says it is not the speculators or dealers that force the price of wheat up in the air. It is the consumer who demands the wheat and the stronger the demand the higher the price.

As a boost for Hawaii Wing very modestly says: "This is certainly a dandy little place. I am glad I came direct from Chicago and didn't waste any time doing it."

VITAL STATISTICS

BORN

ROBINSON—In Honolulu, December 28, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. John David Robinson of 129K Millani street, a son—John Noa.

WILLARD—In the department hospital, Fort Shafter, Honolulu, December 26, to Capt. Charles Louis Willard, Quartermaster Corps, U. S. A., and Mrs. Willard of Schofield Barracks, Oahu, a daughter—Mary Louise.

RICOFF—In Honolulu, December 26, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ricoiff of Fort street, a daughter.

KANE—In Honolulu, December 26, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kane of 1554 Gulick avenue, Kalihi, a son—Samuel.

BACHBINDER—In Honolulu, December 22, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bachbinder of 1400 First Kamehameha street, a daughter—Eleanor KAMAI—In Honolulu, December 16, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Ned Kamaf of Sixteenth avenue, Kaimuki, a daughter.

MANSFIELD—In Honolulu, December 13, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. George Mansfield of 1582D Phillip avenue, near Kalakaua avenue, Waikiki, a daughter—Rose Pua.

OLIVEIRA—In Honolulu, December 14, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Oliveira of 1916 Fort street, a daughter—Dorothy Clara.

KAHOONEI—In Honolulu, December 18, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ka-hoonai of 1412 Kauluwela lane, a daughter—Mary.

MARRIED

McMORRIS-CASE—In Honolulu, December 27, 1916, Lieut. Charles Horatio McMorris, U. S. N., and Miss Elizabeth ("Betty") McCorkle Case, Rev. William Reese Scott, chaplain and captain, U. S. A., officiating; witnesses—T. N. Vincent and Sallie McCorkle Case.

KAHIONA-HONOLIU—In Honolulu, December 25, 1916, Samuel Kahiona and Miss Maleka Honolii, Elder Ernest L. Miner of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints officiating; witnesses—Joseph Puumana and Mrs. E. K. Kahiona.

PITTS-FARM—At Beretania and Makiki streets, December 27, 1916, Clifford Pitts and Jennie Farm, David C. Peters officiating; witnesses—Elizabeth Wilhelm and Eli T. Farm.

DIED

LEVY—In San Francisco, December 29, Mary A. Levy, mother of Mrs. Julius Unger of Honolulu.

SALVADOR—In the Queen's Hospital, Honolulu, December 27, 1916, Joaquin Salvador of Keawe street, Ka-kaako, married, laborer, a native of the Philippine Islands, 24 years old.

CABRAL—In Wailuku, Maui, December 22, 1916, M. B. Cabral, married, carpenter, a native of the Island of St. Michaels, Azores, Portugal, 50 years old.

KAMAEWA—At Oahu insane asylum, December 28, 1916, Mahalia Kamaewa, a native of Hawaii, aged about 50 years.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—CHIEF THURSTON, fire department: One of the nicest presents I heard of Christmas time was a live pig that August Ahrens gave the Makiki fire department boys.

The equivalent of 562 miles of 15-foot roadway was constructed under supervision of the federal public works bureau during the year ending June 30.

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HAWAII HISTORY TOLD IN TALKS

One of the features planned for the Y. M. C. A. educational program in 1917 is the course of lectures on the Hawaiian Islands. These lectures will be held every Thursday evening at 8 o'clock for seven weeks, beginning on the evening of January 4. The lectures will be handled by authorities in the various phases that will be discussed.

The first lecture will be given by R. J. Baker, who will exhibit a number of stereoscopic pictures. Baker has made a study of Hawaiian scenes, and has an unusually large collection. W. D. Westervelt, a student of Hawaiian history, who has written a number of books on the subject, is scheduled to speak on the Early History of Hawaii, January 11.

Kilauea, the greatest wonder of the world, will be the subject of the lecture by Prof. T. A. Jaggar, Jr., on January 18. Prof. Jaggar is one of the leading volcanologists in America, and his talk is certain to be an interesting one.

Mrs. E. M. Nakuina, instructor in Hawaiian history at the Normal School, who has written a number of articles on legends, will talk to the members of the association on January 25. Her subject will be, "Side-lights on Pele and Hiiaka." Prof. Vaughan MacCaughy will lecture on the evening of February 1, taking as his topic, "The Mountains of Oahu." Prof. MacCaughy has made a study of the mountains and trails, and has written many papers on this subject.

W. O. Smith will be the speaker on February 8. He will talk on "The Hawaiian Chiefs." He has given this lecture before, and it has proved to be very entertaining. Hon. Sanford I. Dole will give the last lecture of the series on February 15. His talk will be confined to Reminiscences. His knowledge of things Hawaiian will make an interesting talk. Nearly all the lectures will be illustrated. The course will be free to all women of the city.

DECORATIONS TO BE ELABORATE

New Year's night at the Y. M. C. A. will show the best decorative scheme that has ever been seen in Honolulu according to the members of the committee on arrangements. It is planned to change the entire lower floor in every respect and cut flowers and potted plants will be used as the scheme of decoration.

A. J. Tarleton, chairman of the committee on decoration, has outlined a program that will change the entire aspect of the association building during open house night. Cooke hall will be draped, and the lobby will be beautified, flowers making the background of the setting instead of the timeworn bunting which has been used so often.

In addition to the change in the lobby, the billiard room will be utilized and the games hall will be changed into an auditorium following the basketball game. The committee has organized a team to take care of this department of the work.

The Y. M. C. A. orchestra has announced two of the selections for the evening, Gounod's "Bravest Heart," and the "Toreador." They will also play Victor Herbert's "Red Mill." The Apollo Club has arranged an ideal program for the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Atherton and Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Larimer, with the members of the board of directors and their wives will be in the receiving line.

AMERICANS LOSE ON SWISS EXCHANGE RATE

[By Associated Press] GENEVA, Switzerland.—"It is a veritable financial absurdity," says the Tribune De Geneve, commenting on the low price of the dollar in Switzerland, which is now worth 5 francs 14 centimes, whereas the normal price is 5 francs 18 centimes, while Swiss money is at a great premium in Paris, London and New York. In Paris, for example, a 100-franc Swiss note is worth 114 to 118 francs today. Americans living in Switzerland are losing by the exchange rates. The Tribune adds that the situation is extraordinary because, whereas America is full of gold and lending millions to the belligerent nations, Switzerland is surrounded by fighting nations and has contracted a debt since the war of over 700,000,000 francs, but its credit is increasing as the war progresses. The Swiss government intends shortly to raise another loan of 100,000,000 francs for mobilization and other purposes.

Announcement

The Governor of Hawaii will hold a Public Reception on

New Year's Day, January first, at his home, corner of

Lunalilo and Hackfeld Streets, from half-past two

o'clock to five o'clock p.m. A sincere invi-

lation is extended to the public and

visiting strangers.

No cards.

PERSONALITIES

DR. and MRS. G. I. DOOLITTLE of Spokane, Wash., arrived in the Niagara and are staying at the Young Hotel.

MISS MARY CHRISTOPHERSEN is here from Maui for the Christmas holidays. She is an instructor in the public schools there.

CHESTER A. DOYLE, official Japanese interpreter of circuit court, has been confined to his home by illness during the last two days.

"OPEN WINDOW WEEK" IN NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK, N. Y.—As many as 825,497,861,423,772 disease germs have already met death from exposure to fresh air as a result of New York City's "open window week," according to a statement issued early in December by the city health department's bureau of vital statistics. The bureau estimated that 4,752,322 windows in the greater city were kept open as a result of the movement and that 120,000 colds had been prevented in the 24 hours preceding the publication of the figures. "Tubercle bacilli, pneumococci, streptococci and other bacterial foes were reported as retreating in disorder," the bulletin said.

LETTERS

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION

December 28, 1916.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Sir: I have just read the editorial referring to compulsory arbitration that appeared in the Star-Bulletin of this afternoon. I was pleased to see it, and hope that the coming legislature passes a bill of the nature indicated by your editorial.

As you know, I stand for the man who is the actual producer of the wealth of the world—that is the laborer. Also, as I spent the first 20 years of my life in the coal district of Illinois I know all about strikes and lockouts and the other incidents of conflicts between capital and labor. And I know that both sides want to avoid strikes—that is, it is to their interest to do so. So for that reason, that is, that it is to the interest of capital as well as labor to avoid strikes, I would like to see a move made in that direction.

If I would suggest that among other things that copies of the Canadian Act and the New Zealand Act be secured and published, so as to give the general public an idea of the legislation that exists in those countries. Yours, L. L. BURR.

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